

# Commons Model in Libraries Challenges & Successes

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Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

*“I think that libraries have tried to support learning, but I don’t think libraries have traditionally said we want to make learning happen here.”*

Jill Gremmels, College Librarian, Wartburg College

# Learning-Centered Spaces

- ▣ Libraries shifting from collections spaces to community learning centers on campuses
  - ▣ [\*Libraries Designed for Learning\*](#) (2003) by Scott Bennett
- ▣ Library directors agree supporting student success is the highest priority, but fewer can articulate how the library contributes towards student success
  - ▣ [\*Ithaka S+R Library Survey 2016\*](#) by Christine Wolff-Eisenberg (57)
- ▣ Fostering learning experiences through active learning environments
  - ▣ [\*NMC Horizon Report 2017 Library Edition\*](#)

# Commons - Why?

- ▣ Increase demand for user space, collaborative space
- ▣ More electronic resources
- ▣ Transition from single user activity to group activity
- ▣ Libraries greater role in student learning and research activities
- ▣ Librarians as partners in learning and research processes



# Commons - Why?

- ▣ Printed books still play a critical role in supporting learners
- ▣ Digital technologies offer additional pathways to learning and content acquisition
- ▣ Space without barriers
- ▣ Encourages participatory learning
- ▣ Individuals congregate and engage in co-learning
- ▣ Rather than a quiet location for individual study, environment for "collaboration and knowledge co-construction"

# Types of Commons in Libraries

- ▣ Learning Commons
- ▣ Research Commons/Scholar Commons
- ▣ Subject or Format Commons
  - ▣ Science Commons
  - ▣ Performing Arts Commons
  - ▣ Media Commons

# Learning Commons - Characteristics

- ▣ Creation of knowledge - not information transmission
- ▣ Focus on collaborative learning
- ▣ Flexible - technology rich spaces
- ▣ Adaptable/customizable spaces
- ▣ Combination of expertise, technology, and spaces
- ▣ Undergraduate students main users
- ▣ Offer other services without duplicating
  - ▣ writing tutoring
  - ▣ career services

# Learning Commons - Examples

- ▣ University of Massachusetts – Amherst
- ▣ North Carolina State University
- ▣ Old Dominion University
- ▣ University of Miami
- ▣ University of Indiana



Learning Commons at Indiana University (<https://libraries.indiana.edu/learningcommons>)

Perry Library at Old Dominion University ([https://www.odu.edu/library/news/2016/12/university\\_libraries](https://www.odu.edu/library/news/2016/12/university_libraries))

# Research/Scholars Commons - Characteristics

- ▣ Emphasis on research activities
- ▣ Campus partnerships - variety of services supporting research
- ▣ Emphasis on consultations & individualized research
- ▣ Users are typically faculty, graduate/undergraduate students engaged in research projects

# Scholars Commons - Examples

- ▣ University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- ▣ Indiana University
- ▣ Florida State University
- ▣ University of Texas



Data Lab in the Perry-Castañeda Library at the University of Texas, Austin (<http://blogs.lib.utexas.edu/texlibris/author/alyssaguzman/>)  
The Robert Bradley Reading Room at Florida State University (<https://www.lib.fsu.edu/rooms>)

# Subject/Format Commons

- A combination of both learning and research commons characteristics, with a focus on the particular subject area, format, equipment or technology needs
- Due to limited space, often the physical features of a “Learning Commons” along with a suite of services to support higher level research (characteristics of the “Research Commons”)

# New Challenges (and Opportunities)

- ▣ Transforming spaces
- ▣ Hiring new kinds of positions
- ▣ Training new librarians
- ▣ Developing new skills in current professionals



# Transforming Spaces

- ▣ Space > Stuff: more space for group and individual study
  - ▣ Bookless libraries
  - ▣ Flexible spaces and modular furniture
- ▣ Physical spaces for emerging technologies and learning
  - ▣ Makerspaces
  - ▣ Includes spaces for instruction, consultations, and self-exploration
- ▣ Moving from Analog to Digital Libraries
  - ▣ [Transforming Libraries from Analog to Digital](#) - by Brewster Kahle

# Redesigning Spaces

- ▣ NCSU – Hunt Library <https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/huntlibrary>
- ▣ Stanford University – Terman Engineering Library in the Jen-Hsun Huang Engineering Center <https://library.stanford.edu/englib>
- ▣ Duke University Library - The Edge: The Ruppert Commons for Research, Technology, and Collaboration <https://library.duke.edu/edge>



Hunt Library Commons Area by Seannator ([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hunt\\_Library\\_Commons\\_Area.JPG](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hunt_Library_Commons_Area.JPG))





Terman Engineering Library at Stanford University (<https://plus.google.com/105554859409558941253>)





The Edge by Duke University Libraries (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dukeunivlibraries/22524954035/>)

# New Kinds of Librarian Positions

- ▣ User Experience Librarian
- ▣ Emerging Technologies Librarian
- ▣ Scholarly Communications Librarian
- ▣ Research Data Librarian
- ▣ Discovery Librarian

# New Essential Skills for Librarians

- ▣ Traditional Technology Skills

- ▣ Programming (Python, Ruby, etc.) and Markup Languages (HTML, CSS, etc.)
- ▣ Geographic Information Systems
- ▣ Computer Aided Design

- ▣ Emerging Technology Skills

- ▣ 3D Printing and Makerspace Technology
- ▣ Virtual and Augmented Reality
- ▣ Data Visualization and Curation

# Supporting New Skill Development

- ▣ Continuing education resources
  - ▣ Coursera and other MOOCs
- ▣ Internal support groups
  - ▣ Emerging Technologies Discussion Group (ETDG)
  - ▣ Libraries Coding Group
- ▣ External support groups and events
  - ▣ Webinar presentations
  - ▣ Conferences: Code4Lib, Computers in Libraries



*We will also define a model that better serves the academic community, advances the university's priorities of entrepreneurship and innovation, and harnesses the collective energies of meaningful partnerships.*

Strategic Plan for the UMD University Libraries

# UMD STEM Library

- ▣ Small scale renovation - relocate collection, new carpet/wall paint, new furniture
- ▣ Geared toward graduate students
- ▣ Lectures in open space
  - ▣ STEAM Salon series
- ▣ Showcasing students' research work



# Renovation 2016

▣ <https://vimeo.com/214183609>



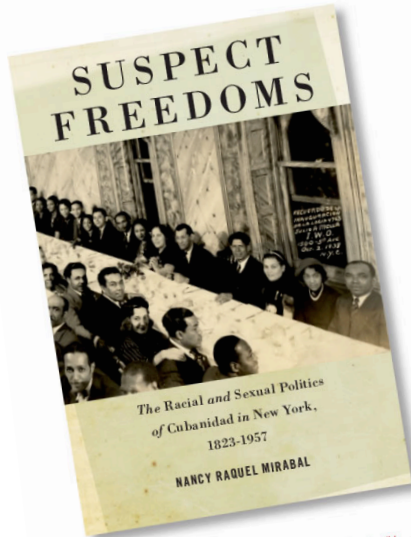


# Speaker series and interdisciplinary dialogues

**SPEAKING OF BOOKS: CONVERSATIONS WITH CAMPUS AUTHORS**

## A Conversation with **NANCY RAQUEL MIRABAL**

SPONSORED BY  
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
AND  
CENTER FOR GLOBAL MIGRATION STUDIES



**Thursday  
April 27  
3:30-5:00 p.m.**  
McKeldin Library, Room 6137  
Special Events Room



*Suspect Freedoms* is the first book to explore Cuban racial and sexual politics in New York during the 19th and 20th centuries. Nancy Raquel Mirabal delves into a rich cache of primary sources, archival documents, literary texts, club records, newspapers, photographs, and oral histories to show how Cubans were authors of their own experience: organizing movements, publishing texts, and establishing important political, revolutionary, and social clubs.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please visit [www.lib.umd.edu/speakingofbooks](http://www.lib.umd.edu/speakingofbooks)

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## IMMIGRATION in the Age of Trump

Interdisciplinary Dialogue Forum  
An ongoing series of conversations sponsored by the University Libraries  
highlighting research connections across disciplines

**April 6, 2017**  
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

McKeldin Library 6137, Special Events Room  
Lunch provided

**Dr. Christina Getrich,**  
Department of Anthropology

**Dr. Susan Dougherty,**  
Director of International Students & Scholars Services

**Dr. Judith Freidenberg,**  
Professor, Anthropology

**Dr. Robert Koulish,**  
Director, Justice & Legal Thought, College Park Scholars

**Dr. Ronald Luna,**  
Undergraduate Director, Geographical Sciences

**Erica Estrada,**  
Academy for Innovation & Entrepreneurship

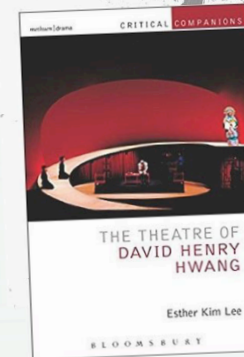


APRIL 20, 2017 | 2PM  
MICHELLE SMITH PERFORMING ARTS LIBRARY  
PIANO ROOM

## SPEAKING OF BOOKS

A Conversation with Dr. Esther Kim Lee

on her book, *The Theatre of David Henry Hwang*



Utilizing historical and dramaturgical analysis, Dr. Esther Kim Lee argues that David Henry Hwang, one of the greatest contemporary American playwrights, has developed a unique style of meta-theatricality and irony in writing plays that are both politically charged and commercially viable. With the revival of *M. Butterfly* set for fall 2017 under the direction of Julie Taymor, Dr. Lee will also share why the play and playwright continue to resonate with audiences around the world.

This event is part of the Speaking of Books Series, and it's free and open to the public.  
<http://www.lib.umd.edu/speakingofbooks>

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SCHOOL OF THEATRE, DANCE, & PERFORMANCE STUDIES

CONVERSATIONS WITH CAMPUS AUTHORS  
PRESENTED BY THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES  
In partnership with the School of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies

# STEAM Salon Series

Please join us for



**POWERED BY RESEARCH COMMONS AT UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**

An informal series of faculty and student speakers in STEAM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics]  
who engage and inspire our university community with their current research



[www.lib.umd.edu/rc/events-at-epsf](http://www.lib.umd.edu/rc/events-at-epsf)

# #LibforUMD

**Engineering Library** @libepsl · Apr 6


Join us Tues (4/11) for Prof. Grant McKenzie present "Open geo-data from social fitness tracking apps" [go.umd.edu/STEAMSalon](http://go.umd.edu/STEAMSalon) #LibForUMD

**Grant McKenzie: "Open geo-data from social fitness tracking apps"**

**STEAM SALON**

Date: Tuesday, April 11th, 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.  
Location: Engineering and Physical Sciences Library: Math (Kirwan) Building

Gaining access to inexpensive, high-resolution, up-to-date, three-dimensional road network data is a top priority beyond research, as such data would fuel applications in industry, governments, and the broader public alike. Road network data are openly available via user-generated content such as OpenStreetMap (OSM) but lack the resolution required for many tasks, e.g., emergency management. More importantly, however, few publicly available data offer information on elevation and slope. For most parts of the world, up-to-date digital elevation products with a resolution of less than 10 meters are a distant dream and, if available, those datasets have to be matched to the road network through an error-prone process. In this talk I discuss the current state of OpenStreetMap and introduce a radically different approach to deriving road network elevation data from massive amounts of in-situ observations extracted from user-contributed data from an online social fitness tracking application.

  
Grant McKenzie

**UMD Libraries** @UMDLibraries · Apr 11

We wanted to see if we could use the mapping data from cyclists & runners to map the elevation of terrain. -Prof McKenzie #LibForUMD

**UMD Libraries** @UMDLibraries · Apr 11

The cycling/running app Strava is one example of an app that generates a huge amount of geo-data across the globe. -Prof McKenzie #LibForUMD

**UMD Libraries** @UMDLibraries · Apr 11


We now have user-generated data coming from not only social media but also social fitness apps. -Prof McKenzie #LibForUMD

UMD Communication and 1 other liked

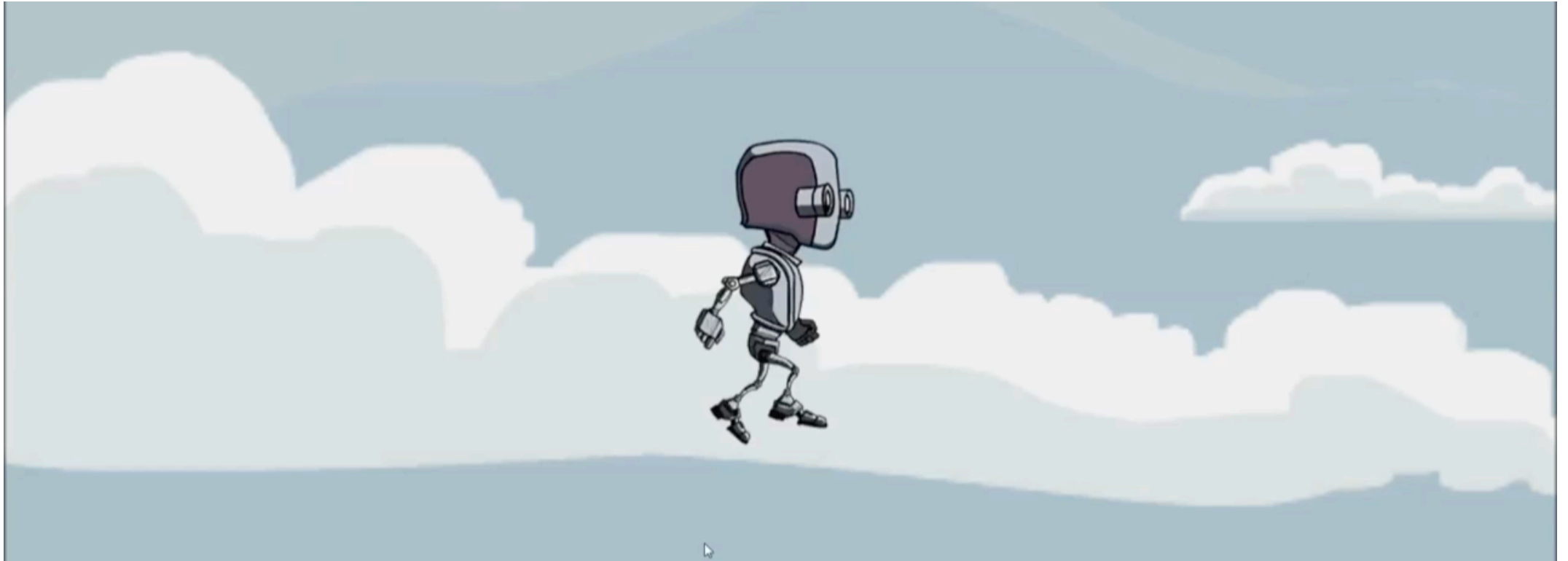
**UMD Libraries** @UMDLibraries · 19 Oct 2016

Our campus forum on elections & social media is about to begin! Join us in McKeldin 6137 or follow along via #LibForUMD.





# Undergraduate Student Projects



<https://youtu.be/zoktjcXrZCI?t=1m>



Questions?